

**REMARKS**

In the present Amendment, claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claims 17 and 18. Claims 17 and 18 have been cancelled. No new matter has been added, and entry of the Amendment to place the present application in condition for allowance is respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the Amendment, claims 1-8 and 13-16 will be pending.

Applicants note with appreciation that claims 1-7 and 13-16 are allowed.

At page 2 of the Action, claims 8 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by Pedretti et al (U.S. 4,429,089, "Pedretti").

At page 5 of the Action, claim 18 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but is indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form.

As noted, claim 8 has been amended to incorporate the subject matter of claim 18, including the subject matter of claim 17, upon which claim 18 depends.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102(b) rejection based on Pedretti are respectfully requested.

Allowance is respectfully requested. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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Date: November 5, 2009